

RECESSION IMPACTS RECYCLING CENTER AT FAYETTE COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

The nosedive in the commodities market caused an immediate change of acceptable recycling materials at the Fayette County Transfer Station. Although still maintaining single stream recycling (no sorting), **styrofoam and glass are no longer accepted.** Paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, and plastic is still accepted.

PRATT recycling discontinued the single stream recycling in 2008. An agreement with SP Recycling to collect, process and ship material from the County Transfer Station to their Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Forest Park was reached, but SP Recycling does not offer glass recycling. SP Recycling is a subsidiary of SP Newsprint headquartered in Atlanta.

According to LuAnn Chambers, Regional Procurement Manager with SP, the commodities market dictates prices of recyclable paper, plastic, metal, aluminum cans and glass. Aluminum cans three months ago were selling for \$1 per pound, now a pound is worth \$.45. "Some recycling is shipped over seas to be processed and used in other countries with the exception of paper and aluminum. The recycling export market has become stagnant and will not change until consumers start buying again. When that happens the recycling demand will again swing way up. We just can't be sure when the swing will occur," stated Chambers.

Recycled newspaper is the exception to this commodity downturn. It is what is keeping some recycling companies alive. SP's parent paper mill needs 120 tractor trailer loads of recycled newsprint a day to operate.

At the other end of the spectrum is glass. It is extremely expensive to recycle since it must be sorted by color and attachments. It costs much more to move it through the system and process it than it is currently worth. At this time only white glass has any value - \$5 per ton.

For more information on items that are not recycled at the Fayette County Transfer Station visit <http://earth911.com/>.